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Return of Farmers to Front-Line Areas

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1. [redacted] North Korean government authorities ordered farmers who had been removed from certain front-line areas in northeast Korea to return to their home villages and resume their farm work. Only those farmers who owned land in the areas were permitted to return. Roughly, the areas affected were within a triangle bounded by Hwau-r1 (128-14, 38-39) (DT-3378), Kosong (128-19, 38-40) (DT-4180), and Chongwŏl-li (128-17, 38-37) (DT-3874). Approximately 525 families, consisting of 3,070 persons, returned to their homes in this triangle. In addition, about 150 members of an armed squad were sent to the area near Kosong.

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Removal of Farmers and other Civilians

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2. [redacted] approximately 2,000 inhabitants of Kosong-gun (128-20, 38-35) (DT-4270) were moved to Kanggye-gun (126-23, 40-43) (BA-7910).<sup>1</sup> The group which moved included non-farmers, widows, the families of North Korean army personnel, those who had been reluctant to cooperate with the Communist program, and families of those who had fled to the south. The reasons for the removal included the following: to alleviate the food shortage; to prevent desertions to the south; to supply factory workers for rear areas; to minimize the problem of civilian security in the front-line areas; and to prevent anti-Communist sympathizers from making contact with South Korean intelligence agents.
3. The People's Committees for the provinces of Kangwŏn, Hwanghae, and South P'yongan issued a decree [redacted] ordering all farmers who had not

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cultivated any land [ ] to be evacuated to Chakang Province<sup>1</sup> and Kapsan (128-17, 41-05) (DA-4048). Two hundred and eighty farmers were in the first group to be evacuated from Kosong-gun. [ ]

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4. [ ] the county People's Committees of North Korea began a compulsory evacuation of families of South Korean collaborators and suspected ROK sympathizers. The committees accomplished this by promising better jobs. One reason for the move was the fear on the part of the authorities that these people might flee to South Korea. The first evacuation was carried out in the Kosong area on 28 June 1952, and by mid-July all persons in these categories had been removed from North Hamgyong and North P'yongan Provinces.<sup>3</sup>

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5. [ ] city police in the Wonsan area disguised as South Korean guerrillas from Yodo (127-38, 39-14) (CU-8243), contacted civilians suspected of having ROK sympathies and promised them that if they would be at a certain beach at a certain time, boats would be there to pick up those who wished to be taken to South Korea. An estimated 300 civilians were arrested as a result of this ruse. [ ] they were taken to Kanggye (126-36, 40-58) (BA-9837) under police escort.

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#### Special Rations and Taxes-in-Kind

6. A North Korean cabinet decree [ ] ordered that provincial People's Committees were not to collect cereal taxes from farmers who had been cultivating less than 300 p'yong<sup>4</sup> during 1952. The decree further ordered that those cultivating more than 300 p'yong would pay a cereal tax of 23 percent of the quota set [ ]. Farmers complained that this tax would be a double one, since the [ ] quota had been set, according to the 1952 People's Economic Plan, at twice as much as the usual year's yield. [ ]

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7. The North Korean government had promised to issue a special weekly ration of 22 hops<sup>6</sup> of rice and other cereal to each farmer [ ]. However, only 1 week's ration [ ] was actually distributed. As a result, the farmers drew up a petition to the government, stating that they were starving. [ ] the North Korean government issued a special ration of 75 hops of wheat flour and 38 1/2 hops of rice to every person in North Korea. This ration was intended to cover a period of 25 days. North Korean officials stated that this issue was a special food ration from Stalin. Actually, the ration was issued because of the starvation petitions which had been received.

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1. [ ] Comment. [ ] the new province of Chakang was formed from the counties of Chasong (126-38, 41-25) (CA-0287) and Kanggye (126-23, 40-43) (BA-7910) [ ] and the town of Kanggye was renamed Chakang. [ ]

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3. [ ] Comment. It is not clear whether the evacuations in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 are separate actions, parts of a whole, or different versions of the same action.

4. [ ] Comment. Three hundred p'yong equal one-quarter acre.

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6. [ ] Comment. One hop is .3 pint or .18 liter of grain.

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